

Oak Wilt Prevention and Control Ordinance

PEPP/AIA

Friday, July 15

San Antonio City Arborist

Mark C Bird

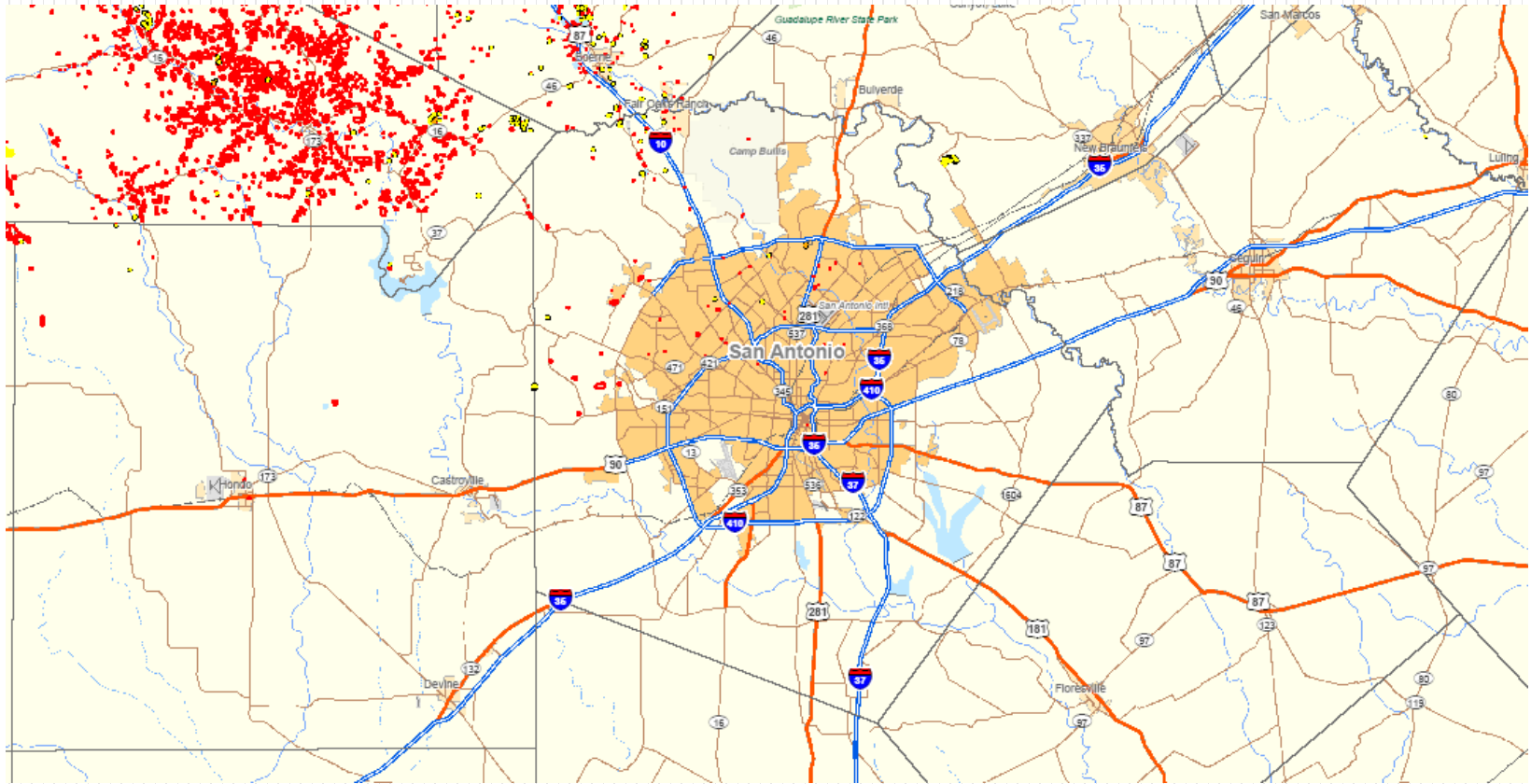
What will be covered:

- What we know about Oak Wilt
- Oak Wilt Ordinance
- Tree Maintenance License
- Tree City USA
- CPS & SAWS rebates and programs

Who cares about Oak Wilt?



Oak Wilt in Bexar County





OAK preservation PROJECT

OAK WILT PREVENTION PROGRAM

What we know about Oak Wilt

- A vascular fungal disease (first noted in 1930?)
- Affects all oak species
- Spreads 2 ways: Above Ground: sap feeding beetle-long distance spread, Below Ground: root grafts-local spread
- Red oak produces fungal mat
- Fungus is temperature sensitive
- Healthy trees just as susceptible (actually more susceptible)
- Likely spread by movement of Oak Wilt infected Red oak firewood with fungal mats

What is **Oak Wilt**?

Oak Wilt is a destructive, incurable and deadly fungal tree disease that is a threat to all oak trees, some of our community's most precious natural resources.

Why should **YOU** care?

Oak Wilt not only impacts trees it impacts our community. Trees with Oak Wilt generally do not survive. Oak Wilt can affect aesthetics, decrease your property value, and is expensive to manage. Ignoring this disease can be very costly: Prevention is Key.

How does it **SPREAD**?

Oak Wilt spreads two ways:

ABOVE GROUND through beetles – Diseased red oaks produce fungal mats generally in the spring. These fungal mats attract small beetles and spores become attached to their body. Beetles, which can travel long distances, are then attracted to fresh cuts and other exposed wounds on ALL oak trees.

BELOW GROUND through root connections – Live oaks grow in dense groups with interconnected roots and this is how it is most commonly spread. Although less common, it can spread through interconnected roots of red oaks too.



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Oak Wilt Symptoms

- Large areas of dead and dying oak trees (pattern of mortality)
- Live oaks: leaves can develop characteristic leaf pattern called Veinal Necrosis
- Red oaks: large portions of dead and dying branches (flagging or flaring) spread quickly and entire tree. Tree can die in 3 weeks

Foliar Symptoms

Live oak leaves



Red oak leaves



Veinal necrosis & Marginal necrosis



Oak Wilt Prevention Measures:

- Treat all wounds that expose sapwood, all pruning cuts
- Minimize pruning oak trees Feb. 1 to July 1
- Dis-infect pruning tools between trees
- Don't buy firewood from unknown source

How to **PREVENT** Oak Wilt

Oak Wilt prevention is fairly simple and should be taken seriously to prevent further spread of the disease.

Prevent new infections by following these steps:

MINIMIZE pruning oak trees **February 1 – June 30**

This is the time beetles are most active and fungal mats produce spores.

DISINFECT pruning tools

Disinfect tools prior to cutting. Use an all-purpose household disinfectant or denatured methyl/ isopropyl alcohol.

PAINT wounds immediately

Oak tree wounds need to be painted immediately, regardless of the season, with latex or commercial tree wound paint. The paint minimizes exposure to beetles.

ONLY **STORE** seasoned firewood from known sources.

Oak wilt can be transmitted through unseasoned firewood from diseased red oaks.

What if you have Oak Wilt infected trees?

- If you suspect Oak Wilt call Texas A&M Forest Service, 210.494.1742
- Fungicide treatment (best applied as a preventative)
- Trenching (break root grafts to prevent below ground spread)

How to manage Oak Wilt if your trees are already infected

STOP SPREAD THROUGH ROOTS

Trenching may be an option to break up root connections. To determine if this is the best method, consult with a qualified tree care professional. This type of work can be complex and often requires specific training on Oak Wilt.

FUNGICIDE TREATMENT

Propiconazole (Alamo™) is a treatment injected (by a certified applicator) into the oaks root flare. The treatment is most effective when applied as a preventative; however, may sometimes be applied after symptoms have been developed.

PREVENT NEW INFECTIONS

Cut and dispose of diseased red oaks immediately. When planting new trees, choose species that are resistant or immune to Oak Wilt.

More questions?

or if you suspect your
oak trees have Oak Wilt please visit
the Texas A&M Forest Service
immediately at
texasoakwilt.org
or call (210) 494-1742

Oak Wilt Ordinance

Sec. 21-170. - General requirements.

- (a) The provisions of this section apply to any person, firm, corporation, business entity, city department, public or private utility to the extent permitted by law.
- (b) All wounds to the trunk, limbs and root system of oak trees in the city that expose sapwood shall be painted within thirty minutes of the wound with asphaltic or exterior oil or latex based paint.
- (c) Firewood from oak wilt infected trees shall not be brought into the city at anytime.

(Ord. No. 97332, § 18, 3-13-03)

Who should I hire to prune/treat my trees?

- In the City of San Antonio a contractor doing tree work is required to have a city issued Tree Maintenance License
- An ISA Certified Arborist
- An Oak Wilt Qualified Arborist
- TEXASOAKWILT.ORG
- San Antonio Arborist Association: <http://www.sa-aa.com/>
- ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Find an Arborist:
- <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>

Goals of Tree Maintenance License

- The ultimate goal is to protect trees by minimizing improper pruning and prevent the spread of diseases such as Oak Wilt
- Provide training and educational opportunities on proper tree care and tree maintenance using the latest practices and techniques
- Provide to the public a database of licensed tree care professionals

Tree Maintenance License Who Needs One and What are the Requirements:

- Any person or firm in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing trees is required to have a city issued Tree Maintenance License (TML)
- General Liability Insurance in a minimum amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00)
- Successful completion of continuing education credits as approved by the City Arborist
- Inside city limits of San Antonio

Contacts

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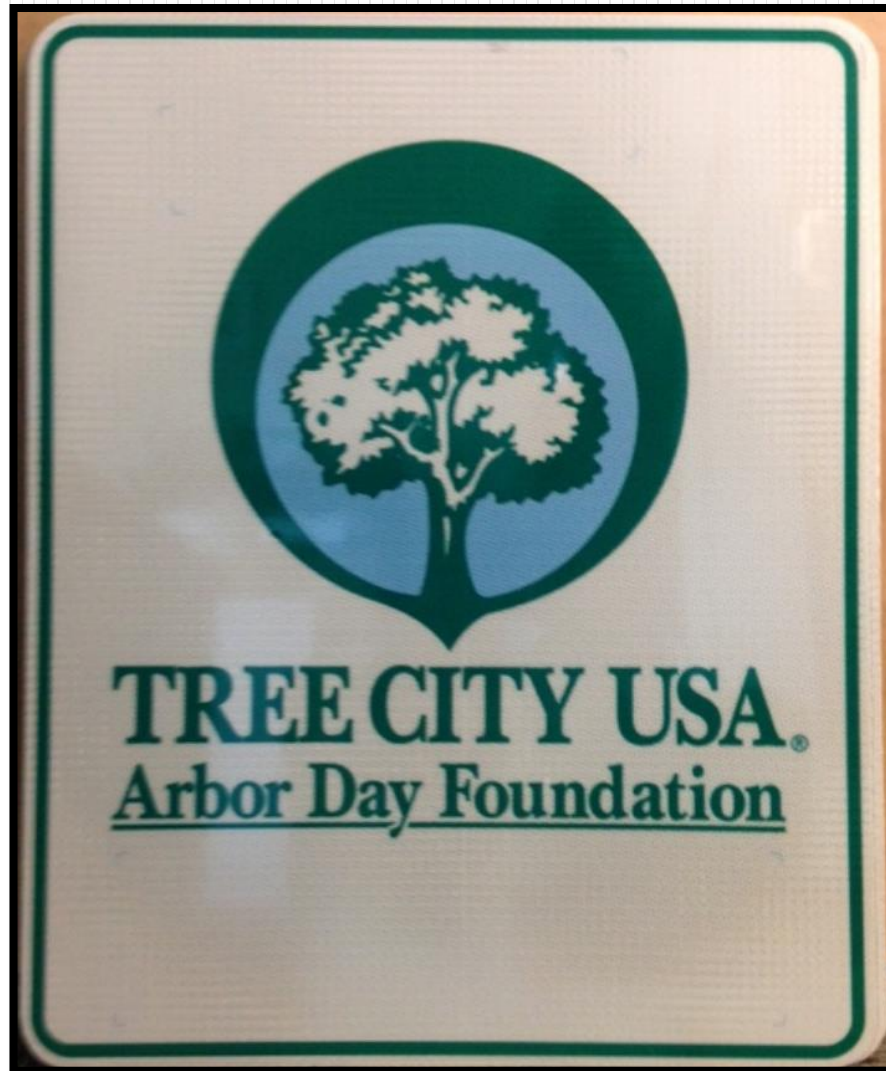
Texas A&M Forest Service

(210) 494-1742

Additional Information:

- TexasOakWilt.ORG: <http://texasoakwilt.org/>
- Texas A&M Forest Service:
<http://texasforestsERVICE.tamu.edu/OakWiltFAQS/>

San Antonio is now a Tree City USA



Tree City USA Standards

- Standard 1: a department that protects, preserves, plants, and maintains city trees
- Standard 2: a tree ordinance
- Standard 3: a community forestry program with a budget of at least \$2 per capita (San Antonio estimated annual budget \$3.4 million)
- Standard 4: an Arbor Day Proclamation and Observance

What is Tree City USA and how is it a Benefit to San Antonio

- The Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program gives national recognition to our city or its efforts in establishing a healthy, sustainable, urban forestry program
- Recognition as a Tree City USA is a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of our urban tree canopy and improve the care of our city trees by educating our community about the value and benefits provided by trees and our tree canopy
- Trees benefit our city by reducing energy costs and consumption, reduced costs for stormwater management, boosting property values, and increasing a stronger connectivity and sense of community throughout our city

Did you know about.....

- **CPS Green Shade Tree Rebates:**
<https://www.cpsenergy.com/en/my-home/ways-to-save/rebates-rebate/green-shade-tree-rebate.html>
- *Made in the shade... Planting trees can help you save energy!*
- Trees around your home are not only good for the environment, they create shade that keeps your house cooler and reduces energy use.
- CPS Energy rewards property owners for planting trees at their homes or businesses. Here are the details:
- Trees must be five gallons or larger and from a qualified species list.
- Trees must be purchased between Oct. 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016.
- Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2016, and must include sales receipt for trees purchased.
- Rebates of \$50 for each tree are awarded on a first come, first serve basis -- until program funds are exhausted.
- There is a lifetime limit of five rebates per address.
- Application must include a photocopy of the original sales receipt for trees purchased, as well as a photocopy of a recent CPS Energy bill.

Did you know about.....

- SAWS RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR PROGRAMS & REBATES: <http://www.saws.org/conservation/outdoor/>
- WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE COUPON
- WATERSAVER PATIOSCAPE COUPON
- IRRIGATION DESIGN REBATE
- WATERSAVER IRRIGATION CONSULTATION
- 7 STEPS TO XERISCAPING
- RAINWATER HARVESTING
- WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE CARE GUIDE
- WATERSAVER PLANT LIST

Questions:

